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CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY India/China/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 25 APR 1949

SUBJECT Joseph Lelak (Joseph Lelek), Former
Czechoslovakian Ambassador to China
25X1A

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO

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1. Joseph Lelak (Joseph Lelek), former Czechoslovakian Ambassador to China, left Nanking on 18 December 1948. The official reason for his departure was sick leave. However, it is improbable that Lelak will return to China since he is not a Communist ([REDACTED])

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2. According to a cable which Lelak sent to source in February, he was planning to go to Batanagar, India, where he would probably join the Bata Shoe Company, Ltd. This company is registered as a British company and has no connections with the now nationalized parent organization in Czechoslovakia. The British company is controlled by Tomas Bata and Mrs. Marie Bata, son and widow of the late Jan Bata. Mr. A. Barton is manager of the Batanagar office of the company.

3. As of March 1949, Joseph Lelak was living with representatives of the Bata Shoe Company in Calcutta. However, he was not working for the Bata Company. After a period of indecision, Lelak had decided to join the Communists and return to Czechoslovakia in the near future.**

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It has also been reported that Lelak was ordered back to Praha, but has delayed his trip pending news of the whereabouts of a son, Miroslav Lelak, age 23, who is living in Czechoslovakia. Lelak has planned to depart from Calcutta for Zurich by air on 6 February. His wife and another son were to remain in Calcutta until he returned.

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